



Class of 2017-18...

The Best Newsletter from the Best Class Ever!

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 10, 2017

WHAT'S NEXT?

City of Aurora Day
November 16, 2017
@7:30am

Aurora Municipal Center
15151 E Alameda Pkwy
1st floor, Aurora Room

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Upcoming Mini-Projects:

November:	Coat/Food Drive
December:	Toy Drive
January:	Clothing Drive

Top Golf Social October 16, 2017



Above: Beth Klein (First Bank) takes a few swings at the Leadership Aurora Social.

Below: Group Photo



From the President...

Leadership Aurora 2017-18: Continuing a Tradition of Serving our Community

As a member of this year's Leadership Aurora class, I personally feel honored to be part of a purposeful initiative focused on bettering our community. For decades now, scores of residents and professionals in Aurora have gathered, connected, and strived to improve Aurora. The 2017-18 Leadership Aurora class is no different. Having completed our class retreat and Community Day, we have all experienced the passion, the desire to serve, and the commitment of our fellow classmates. We bring skills from across numerous industries and a capacity to leverage the contributions of each member.

Words like sustainability, growth, and outreach are commonplace when this class gathers. For this year, the class looks to honor and build upon the

amazing work of classes before us. We look to collaborate for a lasting impact and continue to build a strong foundation for serving our community into the future. Representing over 30 organizations from across Aurora, classmates are learning about our differences while also realizing the opportunity for collective impact. Already connections have been made to help each other and, hence, help Aurora. As this year kicks off, be on the lookout for dynamic and impactful service to our community because that is the tradition of Leadership Aurora.

The bar has been set high for those who have come before us, and this year's class is up for the task. Let's hear it for the Leadership Aurora Class of 2017-18!

Tricia Johnson
Community College of Aurora
2017-18 Leadership Aurora Class President

SELF CARE OVER THE HOLIDAYS

You are number one

You need to take care of yourself first and foremost and not feel guilty or selfish for doing so. It is okay to decline attending or hosting events and parties and not go outside of your budget for buying presents. You need to do what works for you. It's all about setting healthy boundaries and slowing down a bit so you do not get overwhelmed and stressed. Get adequate sleep and eat as healthy as possible, when not tempted by those holiday treats.

Plan ahead

Don't procrastinate when you do have big plans for the holidays or need to holiday shop. Develop a check list and set realistic deadlines so you can get through things little by little, and leave a little extra time for if things do not go exactly as planned.

Enjoy the holidays

Plan some things to do that you will enjoy throughout the holiday season; snow sports, Zoo Lights, volunteering, spending time with family and friends, or just taking some time at home doing things you like to do.

You can't please everyone

Lastly, do not get down on yourself if someone seems less than happy. You did your best and others should not hold you to unrealistic expectations. Give yourself credit, pat yourself on the back and be pleased with your efforts and move on.



Community Day

Leadership Aurora's first gathering was an eye-opening experience that introduced the class to several organizations in Aurora. The day kicked off at Aurora Mental Health Center where individuals had a chance to reconnect and catch up after an agonizing month of separation. Breakfast was generously provided by the Leadership Aurora Community Day Committee and, once finished, our class was given an overview of AMHC from COO Kathie Snell. Many were surprised to hear the scope and depth of services provided. In fact, many of the places visited that day work in collaboration with them. Little did we know, we were in for many more surprises as the day continued.

After a briefing from Rene, groups were formed and given two destinations. From there, each of us was introduced to a variety of self-



Above: Group photo during a small group exploration to the Denver Urban Gardens.

less organizations that few knew existed. Representatives from each location took time out of their schedule to literally and figuratively walk us through their efforts. The gravity and impact of the work these people do is indescribable. Each group instantly be-

came an advocate for their causes and left with the same question in their head; How can we help?

When the visits were complete, everyone reconvened at Gateway High School. There, we were treated to a delicious lunch provided by Legends of Aurora Sports Grill. Each group ate together while developing presentations for the class on their respective organizations. It was apparent, as each group advocated for their location, that a lasting impact was made on all. While a final decision on a plan to give back wasn't made, inspiration was sparked and ideas began to flow.

The day was capped with yet another humbling experience. With the assistance of Goodwill Industries, the class had an opportunity to participate in a poverty simulation. As the rules of the exercise were explained, our instructor was peppered with questions on how we were supposed to know where to go and what to do. She calmly explained that just like much of the population that finds themselves in this difficult situation, we'd have to figure it out on our own. Mock families were thrust together with varying parameters set. After a moment to discover the real-world difficulties we would be living, a whistle was blown and

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the clock started ticking. Some found themselves as a single parent with mouths to feed, others were caring for a family with one income and all struggled to figure out what they needed to do to get by. A timeline of one month was set and one-week blocks were acted out. At first, it was entertaining as we tried to navigate through several obstacles. As the weeks passed, the reality of this struggle started to settle on each class member. The humor and enthusiasm that existed at the beginning of the drill had faded completely. Once finished, each person was asked to think about what they had just been through and what could be done to ensure that no one had to live like that. The group got together and exchanged their thoughts and feelings on the matter and, again creativity began to course through the room.

Leadership Aurora had reached the end of day one and as we walked out of the school, it was a bit quieter than expected. This tightknit group had just been struck with the realities of a life that they had once lived, never known or tried to forget. However, this wasn't a collection of people who felt defeated, it was one that had just been blanketed with an immense feeling of appreciation



Above: Class President Tricia Johnson (Community College of Aurora), Vice President Julian Dewberry (Falck Rocky Mountain) and Susi Marlina (URS/AECOM) brief their classmates at Gateway High School during Community Day.

Below: Rachel Robinson (Parker Adventist Hospital), Emily Trujillo (The Medical Center of Aurora) and Melinda Robin (Aurora Mental Health Center) pose for a picture while in line for lunch graciously provided by Legends of Aurora Sports Grill as Michael Schaefer (The Summit Conference and Event Center) looks on.



Where we have been...

Exploring the Juvenile Assessment Center

During the month of October, most of the Leadership Aurora class started the required community explorations. Many of the class members went through the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), where one of the Leadership class members, Molli Barker, serves as the Executive Director.



The JAC is comprised of two different programs. The first program, the Community Assessment Program (CAP), is housed at the Family Resource Pavilion. CAP is a comprehensive screening that helps identify concerning behaviors and risks and connects youth and their families to resources that help with any needs they may have.

The CAP is by referral, including self-referral. Since the CAP program is located in the Family Resource Pavilion, some of the services that might be needed are conveniently located in the Pavilion with the JAC.

The second program is the Law Enforcement Program. This program screens for medical and behavioral health needs as well, but also screens for detention placement and helps with intake and assessment when a youth is identified by law enforcement for behavior issues or delinquency. The Law Enforcement program completes intake at the Arapahoe County Detention Center. The entrance and rooms are completely separated from the adult detention center so the youth do not see or hear adults that are being held. Unlike CAP, the

youth in the Law Enforcement program are not usually volunteers for the assessment, but the goal is still very similar, to identify concerning behaviors and intervene.

During the community exploration the class participants were able to tour both sites to gain better understanding of the programs that the JAC offers. In addition to the monetary needs that most non-profits have, the JAC does have a wish list. In the Arapahoe County Detention facility they are working to create a space where youth can be comfortable. To do this they are in need of paint, lighting, modern/mobile furniture, coloring books, snacks, aromatherapy and plants. If you can donate any of these items, please contact Molli at mbarker@arapahoegov.com or call 720-874-3381

Did you know:

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce has additional committees and programs that members are able to attend (AND some count toward your community exploration requirement!). Every newsletter, we will take time to explore the valuable work and efforts of some of these Committees.

Transportation Committee:

The Transportation Committee reviews and monitors transportation related issues important to the success of the business community. The Transportation Committee is open to Chamber members, as well as transportation professionals from government and industry, along with elected officials. The Committee has been involved in a wide range of projects including interchanges along I-225, I-225 corridor improvements and widening, FasTracks, E-470 upgrades and local intersection improvements. The efforts of this Committee were responsible for the Transportation Summit that led to the formation of the Eastern Metro Transportation Coalition (EMTraC).

The Transportation Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 AM at the Chamber office. For more information, contact: Mitzi.Schindler@aurorachamber.org



Defense Council:

The Defense Council works to promote and support the people and missions of the U.S. military by working with the local military installations, the aerospace and defense industries, and other business representatives. Their primary goals are to build understanding, recognition and support for our men and women in uniform, bring more Defense Department and Intelligence Community business to the eastern metro area and to aid our members in winning government contracts. The Defense Council also monitors political issues that may have an impact on business and military units in the

area, they monitor veterans' issues, they work closely with aerospace contractors, along with businesses that either currently work, or would like to work, with the military community. In addition, they plan special events to recognize and honor the military in the Metro area. The Largest of these events is the annual Armed Forces Recognition Luncheon.

The Defense Council meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:15 AM Meeting locations vary and registration is required at least four business days in advance. To learn more about the Aurora Chamber Defense Council, contact: Rene.Simard@aurorachamber.org

Get to know your classmates!

Each month we hope to talk to a couple of your classmates and ask questions so we can get to know each other better. This month we asked questions to Lieutenant Mike Hanifin of the Aurora Police Department and Leslie Brezina of Regis University.

Here is what they had to say:

Question: What do you do in your current position?

Leslie: I have worked at Regis University for 16 years and held a variety of positions from recruiter to affiliate faculty. My newest position is Director of Business Development for the College of Computer and Information Sciences. I coordinate activities related to market leadership, community outreach, business development, event coordination, assist with fund raising, and help find avenues for Regis to do work in the community.

Mike: I am currently the Sector Commander at our District 1 Police Station. Although the smallest by square miles, District 1 is the busiest Police District in Aurora. We are assigned the most personnel to handle the high volume of calls for service and generate the most investigative case work. As the District Sector Commander, I oversee and manage three sergeants and their respective teams of officers, 2 Police Area Representative (PAR) teams and 1 Neighborhood Policing Unit (NPU) team, who are each assigned to one of the 11 patrol beats within the District. Although these officers sometimes assist with handling calls for service, they are not tied to the radio, so to speak, and do not generally handle dispatched calls for service such as a patrol officer would. Rather, PAR and NPU officers are the long term solution problem solvers for the District and their respective assigned areas. They have more flexibility and time to evaluate and coordinate public and private resources to address chronic problems within the District. They attend many community meetings, special District events, Homeowner Association meetings, City Council Ward meetings, Neighborhood Watch programs, and various picnics and festivals. NPU is APD's first full-time, year round police bicycle patrol unit. They deploy from the MLK Library offices and patrol the Colfax Corridor in Original Aurora. They are also the business liaison officers for that same area. I also serve as the community liaison for the District and District Commander attending internal meetings and various community events. I also receive and coordinate our response to the many community and City Council initiated requests made within our District (Homelessness, traffic issues, and neighborhood disputes are the top 3).

Question: Who are three people you would like to invite to dinner?

Leslie: Martha Stewart in the hopes she would also help me prepare the meal; Ken Burns because he would be a fascinating storyteller; and Chip Gaines from Fixer Upper because he makes me laugh (and hopefully he would bring his wife Joanna along so we could talk home remodeling)

Mike: If I could invite three people to dinner I would be paralyzed by indecision. There are so many to choose from for many different reasons. Regardless of any personal religious beliefs, I would certainly have to select Jesus as my #1. There's just so many questions. I would also choose Albert Einstein who was arguably the

world's greatest scientist because it would be interesting to have a conversation with a genius. Lastly, I would choose Jack the Ripper. As a Police Officer, I have always been fascinated by this unsolved case. I want to definitively know who it was and why.

Question: If you could meet a fictional character who would it be?

Leslie: I would like to meet Jason Bourne. He seems like a good man to have in your corner in a tough situation.

Question: Where did you grow up?

Leslie: The southwest part of Denver called Bear Valley.

Mike: I was born and grew up in New Jersey along the Jersey Shore and also spent a few years in Southern California before graduating High School in Colorado. Colorado has been home since 1988.

Question: What advice would you give to your younger self?

Leslie: Don't care so much about what people think of you or try so hard to make other people happy. Be true to yourself, do what is right, and make yourself happy as a result.

Mike: I would have said the same thing I now tell my own girls which is to appreciate your high school years, both academically and athletically, rather than take them for granted and waste the opportunity. Work hard and get everything you can out of them and seize those precious few years. Also, I would have advised myself to slow down and not be in such a rush to succeed. I was too ambitious and focused on a career in Law Enforcement rather than receiving other life experiences. I wouldn't have changed my decision as a career choice but I wish I would have taken some advice from a mentor and first served time in the Coast Guard. Having grown up on the Jersey Shore near a Coast Guard station, this was something that always appealed to me. I regret not having served.

Question: If you won the lottery what would you do?

Leslie: Build a small house in a warmer climate with plenty of land for Max, my German Shepherd, to explore; establish college funds for the little ones in my family; take two international trips a year; and help fund a non-profit agency that would teach life and business skills for young people interested in a coffee shop/bakery/bookstore combo business.

Mike: My wife and I do not play the lottery, we would rather take those extra few dollars a week and put them to better use in our Roth account. Quite honestly, neither of us would even want to win the lottery because it seems to cause those individuals or families more harm than good.

Question: Finally, what would you like people to know about you?

Leslie: I can keep a secret and I don't break promises.

Mike: Something not many people know about me is I am a great baker. I developed my own recipe for high quality gourmet brownies and used to own and operate my own gourmet brownie company. We were internet based and shipped all over the country. FOX News ran a national story on our company.

See you soon for Aurora Day!